

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04833 110423Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 SSO-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07 /076 W
-----110430Z 032693 /14

P R 110339Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4420
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT KS
SUBJ: PRO-GOVERNMENT AND ANTI-GOVERNMENT CANDIDATE EACH WIN
SEAT IN BY-ELECTION

REF: SEOUL 4651 (PR030902Z)

SUMMARY: ANTI-COMMUNIST, PRO-GOVERNMENT STALWART O CHE-TO
AND FORMER INCUMBENT CHONG IL-HYONG'S SON EACH WON SEAT IN
JUNE 10 CHONGNO-CHONG DISTRICT BY-ELECTION, UNLIKE 1973,
IN THIS ELECTION "PRO-GOVERNMENT" CANDIDATES AMASSED MORE
VOTES THAN "ANTI-GOVERNMENT". 56.9 PERCENT TURNOUT OF
ELIGIBLE VOTERS IS MUCH HIGHER THAN PRESS ANTICIPATED;
FAIRLY LARGE CAMPAIGN CROWDS HAVE ALSO MIDLY SURPRISED
VETERAN OBSERVERS. END SUMMARY.

1. O CHE-TO WITH 37,650 VOTES AHD CHONG TAE-CHAL WITH
21,266 (UNOFFICIAL) OUT OF TOTAL 91,679 VOTES CAST EACH WON
SEAT IN CHONGNO-CHONG DISTRICT BY-ELECTION. ALTHOUGH BOTH
CANDIDATES RAN AS INDEPENDENTS, MR. O'S LONG TIME ANTI-COMMUNIST
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STANCE AND OVERALL REPUTATION PLACES HIM IN PRO-GOVERNMENT CAMP
WHILE RECENTLY EXPELLED NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMAN CHONG IL HYONG'S
SON IS NATURALLY UNIVERSALLY IDENTIFIED AS ANTI-GOVERNMENT.
PERHAPS BIGGEST SURPRISE N ELECTION RESULTS WAS THAT TOTAL
NUMBER OF PRO-GOVERNMENT VOTES OUTWEIGHED ANTI-GOVERNMENT
CANDIDATES ALTHOUGH NO CANDIDATE RAN WITH MAJOR PARTY LABEL.
IN 1973 ELECTION, OPPOSITE WAS TRUE.

2. O CHE-TO IS PROBABLY MOST FAMOUS AS FORMER PROSECUTOR IN RHEE GOVERNMENT, LIBERAL PARTY MEMBER, AND A DETERMINED ANTI-COMMUNIST WHOSE BOOK, "NORTH KOREA", IS NOW IN CIRCULATION. ROKG TIPPED ITS HAND AS SUPPORTER OF O CHE-TO WHEN IT TRIED VAINLY TO DISQUALIFY THREE-TIME NATONAL ASSEMBLY SEAT LOSER, PAK IN-KAK, COMING IN THIRD WITH ONLY 13,554 VOTES.

3. IN HIS CAMPAIGN, CHONG TAE-CHAL CLOSELY ALIGNED HIMSELF TO HIS FATHER AND TOLD VOTERS OUTRIGHT THAT A VOTE FOR SON MEANT SUPPORT OF FATHER, ONE OF MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS. DESPITE HIS VICTORY, CHONG TRAILED O CHE-TO BY SOME 16,000 VOTES AND ONLY DEFEATED PAK IN-KAK BY LESS THAN 8,000.

4. CROWDS TURNED OUT IN LARGER NUMBERS THAN ANTICIPATED BY PRESS AND OTHER LONG-TIME OBSERVERS AND FACT THAT 56.9 PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS WENT TO POLLS IN ELECTION IN WHICH NO MAJOR PARTY WAS REPRESENTED ATTESTS TO CONSIDERABLE VOTER INTEREST. ONLY COLORFUL EVENTS IN CAMPAIGN WERE ABORTIVE ATTEMPT BY CENTRAL ELECTIONS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TO DISQUALIFY PAK IN-KAK AND SUCCESSFUL ELIMINATION OF WON TON SELLER KWON CHONG-U FROM LIST OF SIXTEEN CANDIDATES ELIGIBLE. LATTER WAS BELATEDLY DISCOVERED THAVE BEEN CONVICTED IN PAST OF VIOLATION OF ANTI-COMMUNIST LAW, AND THUS DISQUALIFIED.

5. RETURNS LISTED ABOVE ARE NOT YET OFFICIAL AND HAVE NOT YET APPEARED IN PRESS. IT IS STILL TOO EARLY FOR EDITORIAL REACTION. ALTHOUGH VOTE SPLIT BETWEEN TWO CAMPS, PRO-GOVERNMENT POLITICANS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MUST BE ELATED OVER O CHE-TO'S STRONG SHOWING IN WHAT WAS CONSIDERED, BEFORE ROKG REORGANIZATION OF THE DISTRICT, AS AN OPPOSITION STRONGHOLD.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770208-1029
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770666/aaaacfut.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 355de57e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SEOUL 4651
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2185338
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRO-GOVERNMENT AND ANTI-GOVERNMENT CANDIDATE EACH WIN SEAT IN BY-ELECTION
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/355de57e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009